

STEWARDSHIP OF STATE INSTITUTIONS

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appeal to the thoughtful citizen who has come to see that governmental expenditures increased during the decade out of all proportion to essential needs.

There are many reasons why institutional costs did increase sharply during the decade. In the first place, the salary schedule established in 1925 was rigidly adopted and was not changed to harmonize with the high cost of living and salaries generally paid during the height of the depression. At no time did all of the institutional employees receive the minimum salary provided in the schedule. In fact even now 25 per cent of those on the pay-roll of the institutions receive less than the minimum.

Secondly, in spite of the universal trend toward the shorter work day, nurses, attendants and other institution employees have continued to work long hours. Many work twelve and even fourteen hours, and the normal period of duty in the State institutions is no longer ten hours.

Finally, the management of the system has been immeasurably hampered by the lack of control of expenditures. It has been the management of each institution with a financial plan for each year since 1923. The planning officers have cooperated in

THE CONSTRUCTION

In 1921 the General Assembly appropriated \$1,342,840 for construction and maintenance of the State institutions. This amount was inadequate to satisfy the urgent needs. In 1922, confronted with an emergency in the construction of a new hospital, a fund was set aside for capital expenditures. In 1923 the institutions were seriously overextended and the appropriations were of necessity appropriated for the construction of the institutions. At the Sessions of 1927,

The appropriations for the construction of the institutions for the current biennium amount, after the Special Session, to \$5,656,010, an increase of 300 per cent over the amount appropriated in 1921. The needs of the institutions for construction in the two succeeding bienniums,

COMPARISON OF
APPROPRIATION AND POPULATION INCREASE
AT STATE OWNED INSTITUTIONS
1921-23 TO 1931-33.



